Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1986

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BGEN, TH

SUBJ: PHITSANULOKE IRRIGATION DAM PROJECT

REF: BANGKOK 18396

1. COMAT AND AGAT CALLED ON RTG MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, THAWIT KLINPRATHUM, ON SEPTEMBER 24 TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. CONSULTING FIRMS BIDDING ON THE PHITSANULOKE IRRIGATION DAM PROJECT. WHEN THE EMBASSY WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN AN APPOINTMENT PRIOR TO 9/24, THE CHARGE SENT A LETTER TO THAWIT. SALIENT POINTS MADE IN LETTER FOLLOW.

QUOTE: I UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL U.S. ENGINEERING CONSULTANT FIRMS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE PHITSANULOKE IRRIGATION DAM PROJECT. TWO OF THEM, THE INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING CO., INC. AND SVERDRUP AND PARCEL INTERNATIONAL INC., HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE EMBASSY CONTACT YOU ON THEIR BEHALF. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THESE FIRMS HAVE EXCELLENT REPUTATIONS IN DOING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION WORK OVERSEAS, AS WELL AS IN THE UNITED STATES ITSELF. BOTH FIRMS HAVE JOINT VENTURE PARTNERS WHICH GIVE THEM ADDED COMPETENCE AND EXPERTISE. WE STRONGLY FEEL THAT YOUR MINISTRY WOULD BE WELL SERVED BY EITHER ONE SHOULD IT WIN THE BID ON THIS PROJECT WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THAILAND'S FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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I MOST SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOUR MINISTRY, IN REACHING A

DECISION ON THE BEST FIRM TO HANDLE THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT, WILL GIVE DUE AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO THESE TWO HIGHLY QUALIFIED U.S. COMPANIES. UNQUOTE.

2. THE MINISTER SEEMED VAGUE ABOUT THE PROJECT AND INDICATED HE HAD NOT SEEN THE CHARGE'S LETTER. (HE WAS GIVEN A COPY). WE WERE TOLD THAT A MEETING WOULD BE HELD DURING THE FOLLOWING WEEK TO DISCUSS THE BIDS. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO DATE ON THE SELECTION, PERHAPS BECAUSE THE MINISTER RECENTLY HAS BEEN BUSY MANEUVERING IN THE POLITICAL ARENA.

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Message Attributes

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